

I write in support of Bill HB 1544, **prohibiting the use of scented products in public areas of state buildings**. Its passage would eliminate an access barrier in public spaces for millions.

1 in 3 Americans (34.7%) suffer adverse symptoms from secondhand exposure to fragrance chemicals. [Prevalence of Fragrance Sensitivity in the American Population](#). Many in this population have been forced to be homebound and to avoid public spaces.

The **population harmed** includes those with chemical/fragrance sensitivity as well as those with respiratory diseases such as asthma and COPD, the immune-compromised, chemotherapy treated, or pregnant women, children, the elderly, and others.

As with secondhand smoke, symptoms are triggered by exposure to secondhand airborne fragrances used by others. Symptoms include respiratory distress, chest pain, cardiac arrhythmia, neck lymph node pain and swelling, nausea, prolonged diarrhea, severe headache, cognitive dysfunction, stroke-like symptoms, anaphylaxis.

Recent years have seen an alarming increase in the amount and intensity of fragrance chemicals in personal-care and in cleaning products, making this critical health issue relevant today more than ever.

There is growing awareness of the harms of these fragranced chemicals and **public recognition** by several governmental institutions, including Social Security, HUD, and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The **Governors of MA**, under several administrations, have declared a week in May "Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Awareness Week." In 2025, **The American Medical Association issued an [AMA Fragrance Policy](#)** for healthcare facilities, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations to adopt and promote fragrance-free policies. In fact, hospitals nationwide have already adopted [Fragrance-Free Policies](#).

We urge you to join these other institutions with a bold step toward solving this critical health issue and bring relief to those afflicted and to future individuals who may become adversely affected by the overwhelming amount of fragrance chemicals ubiquitous in society today.

Respectfully,

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